



Independent Insurance Agents And Brokers of Arizona

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Thursday, September 30, 2010

Thank you very much, Lanny.

It's great to be back with you again. You always make me feel at home, and for that I am deeply grateful.

And, let me take this opportunity to say congratulations to your "outgoing" President TROY JONES, for a job well done, and congratulations to your "incoming" President DAN FINK for the opportunity to lead a great organization.

Lanny and I have known each other and worked together for more than three decades, and, I must say, we don't look a day older from the day we met, do we Lanny?

Your industry continues to be absolutely vital to the Arizona economy, writing billions of dollars worth of Arizona insurance premiums per year, contributing millions of dollars in insurance premium taxes, and providing thousands of jobs for Arizonans.

Throughout my career as a public servant – A State Representative; a State Senator; a County Supervisor; your Secretary of State and now as your Governor, I've been committed to the principles of less government and more freedom.

I know you're committed to those things, too.

You and I understand that we must stop the budget spending spree, we must live within our means – and we must live with a balanced budget.

When I took over as Governor, I faced a state budget deficit of nearly five billion dollars -- across two fiscal years – and a federal government whose unfunded

mandates and sweetheart deals were stealing Arizona's freedom and threatening to bankrupt our state.

Wholesale change was needed – and -- the truth is -- in less than 600 days, WE'VE CHANGED EVERYTHING – and, we've changed it for the BETTER.

We've changed the size of government.

We've changed the way government does business.

We've changed our policies and our priorities and the direction of our state.

We've permanently reduced state general fund spending by over two point two billion dollars and the state employee count by more than 10 percent.

My basic philosophy is that government just needs to get out of the way and let you - - our TRUE job creators -- grow your insurance businesses the way YOU want to – not the way the STATE wants you to.

My first official act as Governor was to issue a moratorium on rules, to reduce the regulatory burden on Arizona businesses.

And, I've been calling for tax reform since March 2009.

We must establish a more friendly tax code to retain existing employers, attract new investment capital and create high wage, sustainable jobs.

We must reform the business property tax, which currently discourages high-paying manufacturing jobs because we overtax capital investment.

And, when it comes to encouraging job creation, I'm committed to preparing for the future with new ideas and innovation.

That's why I established the Arizona Commerce Authority and a private-sector leadership board focused on growing and diversifying Arizona's economy and creating quality jobs – including jobs in rural Arizona.

This quasi-public Authority replaced the old Commerce Department. We're introducing a 21st Century approach to advance Arizona's economy.

I've committed 10 million dollars to advance its mission through its approach to economic development.

Meanwhile, we've attracted over one billion dollars in new capital investment. AND, we've attracted NEW companies to Arizona -- creating over seven thousand new jobs for Arizonans.

Businesses across ALL sectors have added almost 20-thousand jobs since the job loss peak in the Fall of 2009.

For example:

- eBay announced its decision to expand its presence in Arizona,
- Neptune Orient Lines moved here from Oakland, California – and international shipments are being coordinated right here in the southwest – the opportunities are incredible and businesses are recognizing it in new, innovative ways.
- Not long ago, we announced Spanish solar manufacturer Rioglass Solar will locate to Surprise and create jobs for Arizonans.

The company produces curved glass sheets used in solar technology, adding to the significant progress Arizona is making to become a global leader in the renewable energy sector.

In fact, *Business Facilities* magazine calls Arizona the “solar king” – Number One for both solar manufacturing and the renewable energy industry.

Want more proof?

How about:

- China’s Suntech Power Holdings
- Germany’s Solon
- Canada’s Linamar
- Detroit’s Tower Automotive
- California’s PowerOne
- And, our own First Solar ...

This is Arizona’s growing solar industry. This is where our greatest natural resource, meets a collaborative environment and the research and development strengths of Arizona universities.

Meanwhile, I’m ever mindful of the role education plays in job creation and sustaining the Arizona Comeback.

If we’re going to build the economy for Arizona’s second century, we must today begin preparing students and expect them to reach high academic standards.

To that end, we’ve enacted some of the most sweeping reforms in education that the state has seen.

We’re making sure the teachers -- to whom we trust our children’s education -- are, in fact, helping them learn, in every classroom, every year.

We’re asking more of the students themselves, with new academic standards and increased requirements in math and science.

Our universities also play an important role both in educating and preparing students and in innovating and growing our economy.

First, of course, in order for our state to be competitive as a location for companies and to propel growth, we need to increase the number of Arizonans with a college degree.

One of my first directives to the higher education system when I became Governor was to increase the number of college graduates -- and to do it in a more cost effective way.

From my first days in office as Governor, I've been demanding that the Obama administration fulfill ITS OWN security responsibilities to the citizens of our state:

-- Secure our southern border, enhance the rule of law, and protect Arizonans -- and ALL Americans -- from violence committed by organized crime syndicates, out-of-control drug cartels, violent human smugglers, and common criminals.

Legislation I signed into law -- Senate Bill 1070 -- supported by statewide law enforcement organizations -- and the vast majority of Arizonans -- simply provides local sworn officers the same legal tools provided to federal authorities and their local law enforcement partners for many years.

I reject the Obama administration's notion that Arizona's border security is better than ever.

The only thing that MIGHT be better than ever is the quality of the new signs the federal government put up ... warning signs on lands INSIDE our state, some as close as 30 miles to Phoenix, telling our own CITIZENS to keep out!

That's not protection, that's SURRENDER!

What is the height of hypocrisy is that my opponent -- and the entire Democrat ticket -- have been endorsed and supported by the very same union, the Service Employees International Union -- which is leading the boycott of Arizona.

Their mission is to HURT Arizona -- to kill Arizona jobs.

So, tell me, how can anyone credibly create jobs in Arizona when one of his principle supporters is sponsoring the economic boycott of Arizona?

And, simply put, it is downright OFFENSIVE that the Obama State Department included the State of Arizona and SB 1070 in a report to the United Nations Council on Human Rights.

Council members include such renowned human rights "champions" as Cuba and Libya.

Think about it.

Our own American government is submitting the duly enacted laws of Arizona for “review” by the United Nations.

So, we’ve been forced to act on our own – to defend our own safety and security.

And I think Washington has heard us now, don’t you?

I’m also fighting ObamaCare and the eleven billion dollars it will cost Arizona over the next decade.

Health Care regulation is a power reserved to the STATES by the 10th Amendment. Congress has OVERREACHED by REQUIRING individuals to purchase health insurance -- and penalizing them if they don’t.

We have joined this lawsuit because the issue is just too important for our State to sit back and do nothing.

I believe Barack Obama is wrong for Arizona.

I believe that Union driven Boycotts are wrong for Arizona.

I believe we can move forward, creating more jobs and economic prosperity, or we can move backward toward socialism -- and more government, more spending, more regulation.

I want to create jobs; not kill them.

I’m working for jobs and the people of Arizona -- and the right for the truth to be heard, always.

So, to all of you job creators -- I say THANK YOU – thank you -- for setting Arizona back on the road to prosperity.

We’ve come so far in the last 600 days. We’ve changed everything ...

Arizona is moving again.

I believe our state has been revived.

I believe it has been renewed.

I believe faith in OURSELVES has been restored.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote: "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

I like those dreams, too -- and the sense that a wonderful power of achievement and confidence -- is stirring again in Arizona.

It belongs to our future; so let's nourish it and carefully tend to the fruits that it promises.

God bless you and your families, and may God bless Arizona and the United States of America. Thank you.